

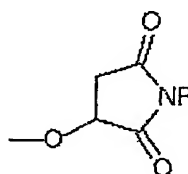
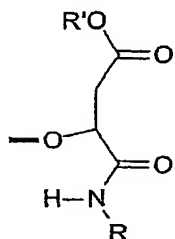
Claims

1. A polysaccharide derivative consisting of a biopolysaccharide backbone and organic radicals having a molecular weight < 5000 bound thereto via ether bridges.
2. The polysaccharide derivative as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the organic radicals have the general formulae (Ia) or (Ib)

(Ia)

or

(Ib)



where R is a C₆₋₂₄-alkyl group and R' is H, a C₁₋₃₀-alkyl radical or a cation.

3. The polysaccharide derivative as claimed in either claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the biopolysaccharide consists of α - or β -(1,4)- and/or α - or β -(1,3)-glucan units.
4. The polysaccharide derivative as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the biopolysaccharide has glucose, mannose, xylose, galactose, guluronic acid, mannuronic acid and/or galacturonic acid units.
5. The polysaccharide derivative as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the biopolysaccharide is a xyloglucan, glucomannan, mannan, galactomannan, α - or β -(1,3), (1,4)-glucan, glucurono-, arabino- or glucuronoarabinoxylan and,

in particular, guar gum, locust bean gum, xanthan gum, carrageenan, alginates, pectins, starch, cellulose and derivatives thereof.

- 5 6. A method for producing a polysaccharide derivative
as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized
in that the polysaccharide is reacted under base
catalysis with N-(C₆₋₂₄-)alkylmaleamic acid or a
salt thereof.
- 10 7. The method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in
that the N-alkylmaleamide has been obtained from a
fatty acid amine of the general formula R-NH₂,
where R = C₆₋₂₄-alkyl, and maleic anhydride.
- 15 8. The method as claimed in either claim 6 or 7,
characterized in that the maleamide component has
been cyclized to the maleimide derivative before
the reaction with the polysaccharide.
- 20 9. The method as claimed in one of claims 6 to 8,
characterized in that the maleamide component is
cyclized to the succinimide derivative after the
reaction with the polysaccharide.
- 25 10. The method as claimed in one of claims 6 to 9,
characterized in that the carboxylic acid function
of the maleamide component is esterified.
- 30 11. The method as claimed in one of claims 6 to 10,
characterized in that the polysaccharide
derivative, after addition of the organic radical
has been performed, is precipitated out,
preferably using a mineral acid.
- 35 12. The use of the polysaccharide derivative as
claimed in one of claims 1 to 5 for binding to
cellulose fibers.

13. The use as claimed in claim 12 for textile treatment.

5 14. The use as claimed in either claim 12 or 13 as biodegradable fabric softener.